

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was submitted to the Patent Office on May 19, 2006. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was submitted on January 3, 2007. Prior to issuing the next Office Action, the Examiner is respectfully asked to make of record the references in the Information Disclosure Statement and Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and return an initialed copy of each of these Statements to the undersigned attorney.

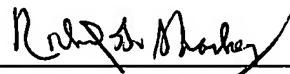
Submitted herewith are new claims 14-17 in order to pursue a preferred embodiment of Applicants' invention. Support for the new claims is found throughout the application, such as at pages 1, 4 and 8-11. For example, support may be found at page 1, lines 4-8; page 4, lines 4-5; page 8, lines 14-15 and 18-23; and page 11, lines 3 and 6-9. No new matter has been added by the new claims. In view of the addition of new claims 14-17 to replace claims 11-13, Applicants herewith cancel claims 11-13 without prejudice.

In the Restriction Requirement dated September 27, 2007, the claims were restricted into two groups: Group I (method claims 1-10) and Group II (composition-of-matter claims 11-13). In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group II, formerly composition-of-matter claims 11-13 now replaced with new composition-of-matter claims 14-17, for examination at this time. Claim 14 is independent, and claims 15-17 depend from claim 14. In view of the non-election of Group I (claims 1-10), Applicants herewith cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 14-17 are now pending and elected.

Consideration of the elected claims is now requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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